

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW RACE OF THE MANGROVE SWALLOW FROM  
NORTHWESTERN MEXICO.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM.

In the latter part of April, 1930, while engaged in collecting along the Sonora coast, I was interested to find *Iridoprocne albilinea* not uncommon in the mangrove lagoons of Tobari Bay. This locality, though well within the Arid Tropical Zone, is far to the north of the nearest place (Mazatlan, Sinaloa) from which the species had been reported previously. Unfortunately, only five days could be devoted to Tobari Bay and in the press of making a general collection there only three Mangrove Swallows were taken. Certain peculiarities in these specimens were noted subsequently but were thought to be individual in nature. Recently five additional Sonora specimens taken by J. Elton Green have become available through the courtesy of the Natural History Museum, as well as three specimens in perfect, newly acquired plumage from San Blas, Nayarit, from the California Academy of Sciences. These 11 specimens have been compared with a total of 35 *albilinea* from El Salvador and Costa Rica in the Dickey collection, from Costa Rica and Panama in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and from Costa Rica in the Los Angeles Museum. As a result the northwestern birds are found to be a distinct race which is here described as

***Iridoprocne albilinea rhizophorae*, subsp. nov.**

*Type*.—Breeding female adult, no. 30306, Dickey collection; Tobari Bay, Sonora, Mexico, April 30, 1930; collected by A. J. van Rossem, original no. 13021.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Iridoprocne albilinea albilinea* (Lawrence) of Panama but upper parts distinctly more bluish (less greenish); white supraloral streaks broader and more conspicuous and usually meeting

across the forehead; rump more purely white with the dusky shaft streaks reduced to very faint lines and with the concealed or semi-concealed sub-terminal spots obsolete; bill smaller and also more wedge-shaped in vertical profile, its width at frontal antiae equal to the length of the exposed culmen.

*Range.*—Coast of northwestern Mexico from southern Sonora (Guasimas; Lobos Island; Tobari Bay; Agiabampo), south at least to Nayarit (San Blas).

*Remarks.*—The dorsal plumage of this species varies considerably with season, birds in fresh plumage being bluish green and becoming progressively bluer until by spring they are steely blue with greenish reflections. In color comparison *rhizophorae* in absolutely fresh plumage is very much like worn *albilinea*. These differences tend to become obscured by wear but, even so, *rhizophorae* in worn plumage averages considerably bluer than *albilinea* in the same condition. In only one of the 11 *rhizophorae* do the white supraloral streaks not meet across the forehead, and even in this case I am not sure that the exception is not due to the "make" of the skin. The bill differences are *much* more conspicuous to the eye than can be shown by linear measurements, the bulk of the bill of *rhizophorae* being about half that of *albilinea*. Incidentally, the bills of immature *albilinea* are sometimes as small as those of adult *rhizophorae*, even in specimens well into the post-juvenal moult.

The winter range of *rhizophorae* I do not know. The species is well known to be a year-round resident as far north as Mazatlan but on two occasions no trace of it has been found in Sonora during the winter months.

#### MEASUREMENTS OF BILL.

	<i>Exposed culmen</i>	<i>Width at frontal antiae</i>
7 male <i>rhizophorae</i>	6.5 - 7.0 (6.7)	6.5 - 7.0 (6.6)
15 male <i>albilinea</i>	7.5 - 8.0 (7.7)	6.5 - 7.0 (6.7)
4 female <i>rhizophorae</i>	6.0 - 7.0 (6.4)	6.0 - 7.0 (6.4)
10 female <i>albilinea</i>	7.5 - 8.5 (7.8)	6.8 - 7.5 (7.0)